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LOUISIANA MAN SENTENCED FOR FEMA FRAUD

Defendant receives 3 years in prison

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . DANNY RAY SHOUSE, age 32, of Opelousas, Louisiana, indicted for claiming to be a Hurricane Katrina victim in order to fraudulently obtain FEMA relief funds, has been sentenced by United States District Judge S. Maurice Hicks, Jr. to spend **3 years in prison**, United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced. SHOUSE was also ordered to pay **restitution in the amount of \$2,000**.

In September 2005 following Hurricane Katrina, SHOUSE applied for disaster assistance through FEMA, claiming that his primary residence in New Orleans had received damage, when in truth and in fact, SHOUSE had been living in a home which provided a residential drug rehabilitation program and he did not own a house. SHOUSE also falsely claimed dependents which he did not have. Based on the information SHOUSE submitted to FEMA, a check in the amount of \$2,000 was mailed to him for emergency food, shelter, clothing and medical assistance.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United

States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison D. Bushnell.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division - includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspector's Service, the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, and others.

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